Willison, Sir John

Jan–April 1917

(13)

Willison, Sir John

510

January 29th, 1917

Sir John Willison,

Toronto.

My dear Sir John:

In view of this being the jubilee of the Confederation of the Dominion the University is arranging for a series of four public lectures to be delivered oneeach week in the month of March on aspects of Canadian Confederation.

Professor Wrong is to take the first on "The Historical Conditions leading up to Confederation". Mr. Lash has promised to take a lecture dealing with "The Constitution and its Working", which he is very competent to do, having once been Deputy Minister of Justice to say nothing of his other experiences. We should like you to take one dealing with some of the "Outstanding Figures of Confederation. Wrong wants me to take the last one dealing with "The Canadian People of To-day", or something of that sort. I should endeavour to analyse the qualities of the Canadian people.

I hope that you will be able to agree to this, and if so, we shall proceed at once to get our programmes ready.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Jan-April 1917

504

March 2nd, 1917

Sir John Willison,

Toronto.

My dear Sir John:

I am sending you a card for the lectures in commemoration of Confederation. You will observe that your lecture comes on March 13th.

The place in which we shall ask you to speak will be determined after Tuesday night. If the attendance is likely to be large we may have to come to Convocation Hall, but as you see we are opening in the Recital Hall of the Toronto Conservatory of Music.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

502

March 8th, 1917

Sir John Willison,

Toronto.

My dear Sir John:

I understand your reluctance to speak in Convocation Hall, and yet I am afraid that we must hold the other lectures there. I am told that there were nearly as many turned away last night as were present. Mrs. Plumptre has been urging the women to attend, and if it is known that we are to have the lecture delivered in Convocation Hall I am sure ~~that there~~ that those who were disappointed last night will come. We need not expect to have the Hall filled, but my experience is that if we have the centre and the rise filled the speaker has a fine audience.

As to your drawing power, I do not agree with you at all. I am sure that you will have the kind of audience that you will best speak to, and as I remember hearing you in the Hall you have no difficulty with your voice in making yourself heard. I hope that you will agree to my announcing the lecture as I already did last Tuesday night.

Yours sincerely,

President.

508

February 1st, 1917

Sir John Willison,

Toronto.

My dear Sir John:

I am very glad to know that you will speak in March in the series of lectures on Confederation. I think it would be well to prepare a manuscript for the reason that it is just possible that we may wish to publish the lectures. At least Wrong was speaking in this way.

Yours sincerely,

President.

498

April 9th, 1917

Dear Sir John:

We are on the point of sending your lectures to the printer as we wish to have them issued immediately. If you wish to make any changes in them, I shall be glad to have the manuscript sent to you, because as you know it is expensive to make changes of any consequence in the galley form. If you do not wish to have more than slight verbal alterations will you kindly let me know and we will proceed at once with the printing ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

Sir John Willison,

"The News",

Toronto.